



Rolling into the future

Ferris automotive to offer sustainable transportation program



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

As of the fall semester in 2025, Ferris State University has included a new program tailored to students getting hands on work with electric vehicles.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

The College of Engineering Technology Automotive department has launched a new sustainable transportation technology program.

The program was approved in the Spring, with the intention to begin offering it to students in August.

The focus of the curriculum is based on electric vehicles, but students will learn a bit about clean transportation technologies.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the newest vehicle technologies, broadening their skill sets for the real world.

The program is intended to be primarily electric based, with students covering topics such as hydrogen cells and

tailpipe emissions.

The automotive department decided to pursue the idea of the program following interest from students regarding work with electric vehicles.

The program was made possible by a National Science Foundation grant, totaling \$350,000.

Patrick English is the professor at the helm of program development as the faculty coordinator.

According to English, the goal of the program is to provide students with more skills to be successful in their future careers.

"We're Ferris automotive, so it doesn't matter what they put under the hood," English said. "We're going to make sure that our students have the ability to make a living

and be able to work with it and service whatever is on the road."

English added that a certificate in electric vehicle powertrain will be added within a year. Students do not need to be in the sustainable transportation program to have the opportunity to earn the certificate.

Students who have graduated from the traditional automotive degree will have the opportunity to add this certificate to their skill set, potentially separating them from other students in the job market.

The program has been designed to prepare students to become certified through the Society of Automotive Engineers under the electric vehicle technician certification.

Students will have the

opportunity to take the certification exam following completion of the program that will allow them to work with electric vehicles, high voltage batteries and electric motors.

Assistant Professor Paul McNair emphasized the importance of having a program that offers hands-on experience.

"Ferris is very good about having hands-on experience," McNair said. "I worked for GM for over 40 years, and I hired from Ferris for 10 of those 40 years. I found that my Ferris graduates were the best employees because they had a lot of hands-on experience, so they understand vehicles."

The program has several electric vehicles available for students to practice with, including a Nissan Ariya, donated by the company.

There are also discussions occurring between the program and General Motors, with the potential for the company to donate electrical vehicle components for students to utilize in their studies.

Computer information technology freshman Rachel Puruleski explained that the new program will help to bring new students to the university.

"I think that it would be a really good addition to the already existing program that we have here," Puruleski said. "I feel like it would bring in a lot more students for automotive."

Puruleski also stated that having more program options will allow students to figure out what they want to do in the future.

The program is currently

open for enrollment from students, with the hope of increasing enrollment as the fall semester gets underway.

Patrick English stated that Ferris is currently the only university in Michigan offering a sustainable transportation program in this configuration.

"We're dealing with students that want the traditional automotive degree, and always will, but there's a different student that wants to go full electric," English said. "We created a degree for someone who can come start from scratch as an electric vehicle technician from the beginning."

Students that are interested in learning more about the program may contact Patrick English at patrickenglish@ferris.edu.

News

The Personal Counseling Center has opened a new 24/7 hotline for students in times of need. Learn more about how to take advantage of this resource on **PG. 3**

Culture

Is the rapid advancement of AI beneficial or harmful? Students have mixed beliefs on what AI will mean for the future, especially pertaining to their careers. **PG. 5**

Opinions

The way we talk about mental health is shifting. This discussion shouldn't be looked at as weak, but rather as strength. **PG. 9**

Sports

The Rio Grande Redstorm are coming to town to face off against the Bulldogs, learn more about this weeks homecoming matchup **PG. 10**



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Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Warren Police officers have four suspects in custody following a stolen vehicle pursuit along Eight Mile Road on Friday, Sept. 12.

One suspect was injured in an officer-involved shooting. The suspect was taken to the hospital and reported to be in stable condition.

The vehicle was reported stolen near Eight Mile and Waltham and was discovered by officers in the back parking lot of an open business. Upon officers approaching the vehicle, the suspects attempted to flee.

The Warren Police Department continues to investigate the incident.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Conservative activist and Turning Point USA CEO Charlie Kirk was shot dead at a college event on Sept. 10

The incident occurred at Utah Valley University, the first stop on Kirk’s 15-event “American Comeback Tour” of college campuses with Turning Point USA.

On Sept. 12 law enforcement officials announced that 22-year-old Tyler Robison was arrested for the shooting of Kirk.

Kirk leaves behind wife Erika Kirk and two children.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

Two men have been sentenced to two years in prison for attempting to use witchcraft to kill Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema.

The two men were convicted under the Witchcraft Act following being arrested in December after it was discovered that they were in possession of charms.

In their trial, the men pleaded for leniency as first-time offenders.

The men will serve two years total in prison effective from the date of the arrest in December of 2024.

Personal Counseling Centers latest addition

New hotline allows for 24/7 crisis help

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Ferris State University has launched a 24/7 mental health crisis support line to give students immediate access to licensed mental health professionals, no matter the hour.

The new hotline, which is available year-round, is free to all enrolled students and aims to fill the gap in after-hours support.

The Personal Counseling Center has never previously offered a service like this on campus. Funding became available this summer, allowing the university to act quickly and install the service.

Students who are struggling with a mental health crisis can call (231) 591-HELP, which is 4357, to be connected. When students use the line, they can expect to be connected with a trained professional within 30 seconds of placing the call.

The university partnered with a national crisis support provider called Protocol to staff and manage the hotline. The company specializes in around-the-clock mental health services and works specifically with colleges to offer campus-informed crisis support.

Housing staff and other

university officials had long pushed for more support, especially during nights and weekends.

Director of Counseling and Anti-Violence Prevention Programming Andy Slater oversees the university’s mental health services and led the rollout of the new 24/7 crisis support line.

“We were able to secure some funding over the summer for mental health initiatives, and the idea of a crisis line came up again,” Slater said. “It’s something we’d talked about before, but cost was always a barrier. This year, with the funding in place we decided it was time to move forward and make it happen.”

Until now, students had few options for immediate mental health support after business hours. While national services like 988 are available, they aren’t specific to Ferris or its campus systems.

Slater explained how the system works and how all the calls are reported back to the PCC so further support can be given if needed.

“They’ll do a safety assessment, talk through the situation, and then determine next steps,” Slater said. “That might mean creating a safety plan or, in more serious cases recommending

emergency care. This service is designed specifically with Ferris students in mind. The counselors on the other end know about our campus, our support systems and where to refer students locally.”

If the student shares their name during the call a report is sent to Ferris’ Personal Counseling Center the next day, allowing campus staff to follow up and offer additional support.

“We’re not going to force students to respond,” Slater said. “But chances are that one phone call didn’t fix everything. We want to connect them to counseling, the care team, or other resources like our food pantry depending on what they’re going through.”

Students on campus expressed similar sentiments when learning about the crisis center, specifically bringing up how this may be their first time away from loved ones and family.

Criminal justice sophomore Shakyla Willis believes that the hotline will prove to help students who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, especially those who may feel like they are alone or have no one around.

“A lot of students are going through stuff even if they have people at home,” Willis said. “They are all the way at

college so oftentimes they might not say anything or stick to themselves.”

Willis mentioned the importance of students being able to feel like they can get out and enjoy themselves despite dealing with the pressures of school.

Nuclear medicine freshman Lindsey Wierenga also had not heard of the new resource but expressed relief that students who are struggling can have that support at any time of day.

“It’s good to have a resource like that, that’s very specific,” Wierenga said. “People can easily find it and use it when they’re not around their normal support structure.”

Wierenga also advised students to reach out to people because someone on campus can be going through something similar and is likely willing to help.

Counseling services on campus are free Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all students who are interested in starting sessions with a licensed clinician.

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Climbing tuition costs

Examining rising expenses at FSU



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Emma Walters
News Editor

Tuition costs have been steadily increasing across the country amid economic challenges.

Ferris State has not been exempt from these changes, with the estimated total for all undergraduate student expenses being equated to \$29,817.

Student expenses include the price of tuition, room and board, meal plans, university and technological fees and other estimated expenses, such as books and supplies.

In documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, undergraduate student expenses have in-

creased \$3,113 since 2022.

In 2022, undergraduate student expenses totaled \$26,704.

Undergraduate students enrolled in the 25-26 year can expect to pay \$852 per credit hour for freshman and sophomores, and \$909 per credit hour for junior and senior year.

Comparatively, freshman and sophomores were reported to have paid \$765 per credit hour and juniors and seniors were reported to have paid \$815 a credit hour.

Graduate student rates have seen a limited increase as well, projected to pay \$797 per credit hour for the 2025-2026 academic year.

That is an \$86 increase

from the 2022-2023 academic year.

Most of the cost increases in student expenses come from housing and dining costs.

Dining and housing costs with a platinum meal plan have increased by \$1,420 alone between 2022 and 2025.

Tuition prices have been steadily increasing across the country over the last ten years as the economy has shifted.

Now, the future of student expenses hangs in the balance as public funding continues to be diverted elsewhere or cancelled all together.

Associate Vice President

of Communications David Murray explained that Ferris works to provide students with scholarships to assist with rising costs.

“The university has provided about 5,200 scholarships worth nearly \$20 million in the past year,” Murray said. “It also makes sure students can access federal and state scholarships and connects them with Scholarship Universe. We want to ensure Ferris State is affordable so we can help more people gain the skills they need to change their lives.”

Financial Aid declined to comment on this article.

Architecture sophomore Kenna Barber explained that while her program is expen-

sive, the opportunities that Ferris provides makes the money worth it.

“My degree is very expensive going into,” Barber said. “But with that, we also get to go on trips. It’s a part of what we shoot for. Our juniors and seniors are going to Miami in a week. I’m going to Detroit for a little bit. So, my tuition is a little bit more expensive because I’m paying for that.”

Earlier this year, Ferris was designated as a ‘Opportunity University’ by Carnegie Classifications.

The designation was provided based upon how the university develops opportunities for its students.

Social work senior Autumn Kailing expressed discontent

over having to pay for student resources on campus that she does not utilize.

“There’s just some things that I don’t use here at Ferris, like the Birkham Health Center,” Kailing said. “I live in Big Rapids, so I don’t need all that. I’m kind of paying for what I don’t use.”

Students can opt out of these fees when they accept their financial aid, but that is the only way to avoid paying for resources that will go unused.

Tuition rates for the 2026-2027 academic year remain unknown, but may see a slight increase if trends from previous years are to be followed.

Bulldog safety bites

Emma Walters
News Editor

- ### Don't forget your license

Always carry your driver's license when operating a vehicle and know the restrictions of your permit—violations can lead to costly fines and court appearances if you operate a vehicle without it.
- ### Don't go phishing

Be cautious of anyone asking for money transfers to release packages or prizes. Legitimate companies will never request payment through peer-to-peer apps to “clear customs.”
- ### Ferris resources are available

If you feel you're being harassed, stalked, or monitored, trust your instincts and report it. Campus police and counseling resources are available to help you feel safe and supported.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

AI: productive or pernicious?

Students explore AI's impacts on careers and more



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

The advancement of AI is rapid, and its future impacts are currently uncertain.

Students at universities across the country are being pushed to consider the implications of such technology.

Is the rapid and unprecedented development of AI harmful, helpful or somewhere in between? There is a blend of opinions on the usefulness versus the potential harm of the developing tools.

Digital media and production senior Kyle Hossen aims to work behind the camera in live sports production after he graduates. Hossen has thought considerably about how AI impacts creative

fields like his own.

"The only problem that I have with it is when it comes to things like generative AI, where it dips into visual mediums, because I think that when you're creating imagery, you're creating music or film with AI, there's no pride in it," Hossen said. "Because it's not being created by something that has any intent or purpose."

Many students who study creative fields and specialize in creating have similar thoughts when it comes to the integrity of what AI is asked to produce, but many make it clear that the impact is hard to predict.

History sophomore Caitlin Power aspires to create documentaries after she gradu-

ates. Powers has considered how AI might impact her future career.

"I think to a certain extent it could [replace people in my career]. I see a lot of people use AI to make plots and stuff," Power said. "I would like to write documentaries and kind of gather that myself."

Many students are still very unsure about what future advancements in AI will mean for their careers, and believe that the technology can be both helpful and harmful.

Marketing sophomore Makenah Reed plans to do social media for a hockey team upon graduation. She is an example of someone who has mixed views on AI

tools and the impacts they could have on different jobs.

"I don't think AI will necessarily take over my job," Reed said. "I think it will be beneficial in some ways but harmful in other ways. It will advance how fast things can get done and open more jobs in other areas."

While students are considering the implications of AI on their future careers, they have also expressed concern about other aspects of the technology.

History sophomore Cloey Hatton revealed her concern about the impacts that AI will have on the environment and the critical thinking skills of people who use it.

"I think it will be harmful because I think people are

not going to learn to think for themselves," Hatton said. "I think it has a lot of environmental impacts on wildlife and the amount of water usage, so I think it's pretty bad."

Students are considering the effects AI will have on more than just their own careers. For students who are weary of the technology, there are reasons beyond the fear of their future profession being lost.

Many students wish to preserve the integrity of creative careers and hobbies and see AI as a threat to these fields.

Television and digital media junior Paul Davidson hopes to get a job in the film industry after he graduates. He calls into question the

impact that AI might have on the creative portion of filmmaking.

"I think if the industry continues to become reliant on AI, then I could see it potentially leading to all sorts of damage," Davidson said. "Our films will begin to lose their artistic integrity and businesses will become over-reliant on data mining algorithms."

While not every student believes they are at risk for losing the careers they haven't even started, many are weary of the threat that AI could pose.

An occasion for opportunity

Bulldog Bonanza presents numerous RSO's open to students



Photo by: Shaunti'are Reynolds | Photographer

One of the many RSOs that were setup during Bulldog Bonanza.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Bulldog Bonanza gave students the opportunity to view all the registered student organizations on campus and have a chance to become connected to their community. Bulldog Bonanza was held at the Robinson Quad on Wednesday, Sept. 10. There were over 200 RSOs and clubs presenting themselves to the Ferris community and encouraging students to get involved. The tables included academic programs, sports clubs, special interest sports, fraternities, sororities, political groups and more. They each gave students informa-

tion pertaining to their RSOs in hopes of piquing the interests of nearby gatherers. Many RSOs had trophies and awards they won in the past, poster boards of pictures from previous years and sign-up sheets open to all Ferris students. Becoming a member of an RSO can be life-changing for some students. Health information management junior Kaylee Martin, who is the membership vice-president of Alpha Xi Delta, has found the friend group that she's always wanted by becoming a member of a student-led organization. "In high school, I never had a big friend group of girls," Martin said. "I was actually

bullied a lot in high school. When I came to college, I knew exactly what I was looking for. I knew I wanted this group of women to help support me and make me realize my potential. I found that within this group of women. I found the sisters and the best friends that I've always wanted. Truly, this organization has given me so much, and I want to give that to younger girls that are coming into college who don't really know what to do from here." All students come from a variety of different backgrounds. Regardless, all students are welcome to join an RSO where they can be themselves with no judgment. Public relations sophomore

Kate Ritter, who is the president of the Public Relations Student Society of America, thinks her club can benefit students because of the opportunities surrounding their futures. "Networking as a student is very important," Ritter said. "If you graduate and you don't really know what you want to do or you haven't had any experience talking to any professionals, it kind of leads you into a space where you're like 'oh crap.' Having that opportunity to go out there and figure out what you want to do is really important, and I think that's why a lot of students do end up joining us because they want that additional experience."

Ritter added that the RSO does tours every semester of different companies, giving students the opportunity to interview public relations professionals in the communication space, which can be beneficial for students who are unsure of their future careers or ideas. English education junior Bradley Lardie, who's the vice president of Dawg Pound, wants his RSO to be well-known across the Ferris community so that the organization can build and grow like the Ferris hockey team. "Ferris used to be the hockey school," Lardie said. "But we're coming back. We got a new head coach, we got a lot of new players and all

new coaching staff. This is going to be a rebuilding time. Not only are we rebuilding the team, but we're rebuilding the community around the team. That's why I think it's important that we're trying to get ourselves out there before the season starts. That way, we can build as the team builds." Joining an RSO will allow students to make friends and become a part of an organization that they may not have known existed. All RSOs are in need of new members not only to expand their groups, but to ensure that they feel connected and welcomed into the community.

Media minute

“The Paper” season one

Lucas Gill
Web Editor

Sept. 4 saw the premiere of “The Paper,” the sequel series to the highly acclaimed mockumentary “The Office.”

Created by Greg Daniels, the showrunner of the American version of “The Office,” and comedy writer Michael Koman, the spiritual successor follows the story of the same documentary crew.

In this series, their subject is the Toledo Truth-Teller, a once-historic Midwestern newspaper located in Toledo, Ohio, during a pivotal moment for the publication, as its management undergoes changes.

“The Paper” features an all-new ensemble, save for one exception.

The series stars Domhnall Gleeson as Ned Sampson, the Truth-Teller’s new edi-

tor-in-chief. The narrative’s focus revolves around Ned’s goal of reviving the defunct publication by ushering in a new staff made up of volunteer reporters.

I believe Gleeson feels right at home with this style of comedy and brings an impressive range to the table. He navigates the role of Ned with a balance of wit, awkward charm and mounting desperation that feels both grounded and absurd in his own way.

Sabrina Impacciatore plays Esmeralda Grand, the previous editor of the Toledo Truth-Teller and manager of TTT Online. Impacciatore’s performance leads to some uniquely hilarious moments, as Esmeralda initially tries to ruin Ned’s reputation out of spite after being replaced.

Chelsea Frei, who plays Mare Pritti, the Truth-Tell-

er’s compositor, acts as the show’s everyman while having some standout moments of her own throughout the season.

Oscar Nuñez reprises his role as Oscar Martinez, the head accountant at the Ener-vate office, where the Toledo Truth-Teller resides. It is revealed that there was no end date on the release Martinez signed before the events of “The Office,” meaning he could still be featured in any related documentaries.

The other cast members, notably Ramona Young, Melvin Gregg, Gbemisola Ikumelo, Alex Edelman and Tim Key, are wonderful additions. Each of them has a unique style of comedy that blends well with the others.

Visually, “The Paper” hits the same beats as its predecessor.

Most of the show is shot

with handheld cameras that the in-world documentary crew is using. Each episode has interview segments spliced in that feel down-to-earth and realistic, while still managing to be pretty funny.

Every episode has multiple subplots, allowing for some interesting character pair-ups as the Truth-Tellers search for stories and hunt down sources.

The one thing that I think is on everyone’s mind is: Does it live up to “The Office”?

The short answer? No. Not yet, anyway.

Character-driven ensemble comedies like “The Paper” take some time to establish themselves. The series so far

seems to be going through some growing pains as it takes its time to let various aspects, such as the character dynamics and episode formula, settle in.

You can observe this during the show’s first few episodes. I believe “The Paper” finds its stride around the midpoint of the season after its main cast is ironed out and we have our character dynamics established.


If you’re a fan of workplace mockumentaries such as “Parks and Rec” or “Brooklyn Nine-Nine,” chances are you’ll find enjoyment in watching “The Paper.”


The show has its own sense of humor and charm,

highlighting several elements of the specifics of small-time publications and people trying to better their community through local journalism.

I personally have faith in the series. If its writing keeps up the momentum and builds off the better aspects of these initial episodes, I think it has the potential to really live up to its predecessor while maintaining a distinct feel of its own.

The first ten episodes of “The Paper” are available now for streaming on Peacock. As of writing, the show has already been approved for a second season.





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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Learning to love your own company

The power of the solo agenda



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Multimedia Editor

Recently Blase has been getting outside more thsn usual and enjoying activities on his own like reading and taking walks.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Learning to be content with doing things on your own isn't just okay, but it's essential to building confidence, self-awareness and genuine enjoyment of life. It has taken me so much time to understand that oftentimes in life, we are going to be alone, and we have to make do with what time we have already, making sure we are living it to the fullest. So many people in society are going into relationships, are seeking a relationship, or even have gone into a relationship when they aren't even comfortable in their own skin. I am definitely guilty of this as well. At the end of the spring semester during my junior year, I had a few days to kill on my own before all of my tasks could be completed and I could go back to Traverse City. I remember feeling empty, sitting all alone in my apartment because all of my friends at the time were heading back home and leaving Big Rapids. My girlfriend at the time was busy

and didn't have enough free time to come see me, and I couldn't go stay with her because I needed to do work in Big Rapids. I was sick of sitting alone and didn't know what to do with my time, so I got on the highway and started driving. I didn't know where I was going, but I just turned some music on, rolled the windows down and started speeding along. A thought then came to my mind; I hadn't seen a movie in theaters in a long time. Another thought then came to my mind; I've never been to the movie theater alone. I was already heading south on 131, so I just kept going till I saw that beautiful Grand Rapids skyline. The sun was setting when I walked out of the theater and I remember just smiling because it was a beautiful day. I couldn't help but feel at peace because that entire time I was only accompanied by myself. It took me so long to realize that I had the power to live every day like that. Enjoying the little things and being able to fully absorb the moment you are in is a key part of build-

ing character and growing as a person. Social media does not help with this agenda at all. Constantly seeing influencers, celebrities or even people you went to high school with flaunting their best life. Making it seem like every moment is fun and glamorous, spent surrounded by friends. Constantly seeing this can put people down, making it feel like they are not doing enough to live their lives. You don't have to be afraid of missing out if your life doesn't look exactly like that. Being content on your own is so important when it comes to building internal development, and if you are changing for the better, I'd like to think you aren't missing out on anything. Being alone helps you make decisions without the pressures of others. I have always struggled with this and it's something I hadn't noticed till friends commented on my indecisiveness. This is where doing things on my own opened my eyes and made me realize I should be living for myself and not others' validation. I've noticed the activities I

do have become more about what I enjoy rather than what's popular. Becoming comfortable on your own also helps build your self-reliance. Navigating work or school on my own had been a challenge but it really has helped me build confidence. Yes, it is okay to ask for help and need the support of others. This piece is not me saying you need to do everything on your own. The solo agenda is critical when used in moderation, as it is a way to escape everything and everyone around you, which, in my experience, can help you find inner peace, but being on your own too often can lead to isolation and depression. But what makes the solo agenda even better is that you can experience enjoyment without seeking validation. Going to a movie on your own means you don't have to compromise what you watch. Studying alone means no distractions, just a flow state and rhythm. It doesn't matter what you are doing. It could be taking a walk, shopping or trying something new. It can all

be fulfilling without needing someone else's opinion. Learning to enjoy moments without needing to post them or share them for validation is freeing as well. This is something I have been better about in recent years but I know it is something a lot of people struggle with. When you are okay with doing things solo, you're more comfortable in group settings. It doesn't feel like you are searching for a way to fit in, it just feels natural. Start small when trying this out. Go for a walk on your own, go to a new coffee shop or maybe even walk to the new coffee shop. Try finding a spot to go eat lunch or study outside alone. Another recommendation is leaving your phone behind as well. Just because we have instant access to communication and media doesn't mean we need to rely on it all the time. I promise you aren't missing out when you are alone. Think of it as building a life where you're never completely dependent on anyone else for joy.

Mental health is not a weakness

The conversation is never over



Photo by: Emma Walters | News Editor

Emma (right) pictured with Amber. (left)

Emma Walters
News Editor

Mental health is not a taboo subject to talk about. Discussion surrounding this topic has evolved im-

mensely over the years, for which I am incredibly grateful. That being said, stigma still exists. And it is everywhere. Even though we have opened conversations around mental health, I con-

tinue to see a lot of conversations insinuating that people who struggle with mental health issues are weaker than others. This could not be further from the truth, because the

strongest person I knew was my friend Amber. When I tell people who never met Amber what she was like, the best way that I can describe her is akin to sunshine personified. She was the happiest, bubbliest, kindest person I have ever met in my life. She was so nice to everyone she knew, no matter who they were. She inspired me to be kind to everyone regardless of who they were. I miss her dearly. I am forever grateful for the fact that I knew her and got to share part of my life with her. In her memory, I urge you to do two things. Firstly, take care of one another. Check in, send the text, make the call, ask the hard questions. Do not be afraid of being “cringe”. Mental health does not discriminate. The happiest person you know might be the one struggling the most. We all need to take care of each other. We need to love each other. We need to not be afraid to have hard conversations, even if we don’t want to, or we feel uncomfortable doing it. Beyond that, continue the conversation. Help break the stigma.

Amber is one of the strongest people I knew. Nothing about her experience can be described using the word weakness. We need to change the narrative that struggling with your mental health means something is wrong with you. Or that you aren’t strong enough. There is nothing weak about fighting that fight. It takes immense effort and strength to get through the days, both good and bad. The continuation of conversations surrounding mental health will only continue to open opportunities for those in need to access the resources they need. We must continue to be open and honest about mental health to support those around us. September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Spending the month highlighting this topic, recognizing those who have been affected by suicide, who have struggled with suicidal thoughts and focusing on connecting those in need with resources is an imperative for breaking stigma and helping those who are struggling. That does not mean that this should be contained to

one month only. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 49,000 people died by suicide in 2023. That is equivalent to one death every 11 minutes. There needs to be a change made in how we think about and handle mental health. That change begins with you and me. We need to talk to each other, care for each other, be there when it is hard and when it is good. So, I beg of you, please educate yourself. Educate others when you can. Stand up against the idea that mental health is something to turn a blind eye to. If you are struggling, please know that you are not alone. You are important, you matter and you are loved. I and so many others stand behind you with support, love and dedication to helping you. If you are struggling and in need of support, the national mental health hotline can be dialed at 988. The Personal Counseling Center is available to provide students free support in times of need as well. Appointments can be made at 231-591-5968.

The death of morality

Looking beyond the murder of Charlie Kirk

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

The United States is in the center of a moral crisis, and the death of Charlie Kirk has proven it to me once again. There are many reasons why so many people, including myself, are heartbroken over this case. However, I can only really speak for myself. The horrific image of his last moments is burned into the mind of his wife for the rest of her life. I can’t help but imagine the devastation his wife is facing right now, losing her best friend and the father of her children. Every night, she will tuck them in without him there. She will have to explain to them over and over again that their dad isn’t coming home. Selfishly, it makes me think of what I feel like in her position. I consider what it would be like to lose my best friend and the father of my child, and the thought of that is gut-wrenching to me. The implications of this are larger than some realize. It scares me to raise children

in a world where they might be murdered for being bold about what they believe. It frightens me because Kirk was killed for doing the exact thing we tell so many children to do: to stand up for what they believe in. Kirk’s political views are the least of my concerns in this entire situation. Everyone should be able to feel safe in sharing what they believe, as long as they are not physically harming another person. It makes me sick to see the number of people justifying his murder, attacking his family on social media and celebrating his death. I use the word evil very sparingly, but there are a few other words I feel are fitting enough to describe the celebration of another human’s death. I am angry at those people. I’m not angry because some may have different political beliefs from mine. There are many people I love with very different beliefs. I am angry at people who rejoice in the fact that somebody was murdered. There is a lot, other than the death of Kirk, that doesn’t

sit right with me. It goes far beyond the death of a single man. It makes me wonder why people believe the way they do about social media and global issues. There are so many people on social media asking, “Where were you when *insert tragedy* was going on?” I was probably somewhere crying about that too. I don’t care any less about children starving in Gaza or the recent shootings that have taken place. These things break my heart, too. Since when does it mean I don’t have permission to be upset about one tragedy if I wasn’t sitting behind a keyboard writing about another? The truth is, I have way too much going on to sit online monitoring and writing about every tragedy that happens. Some things are mourned privately, but that doesn’t mean they are any less important to me. Lastly, it bothers me to see people blaming each other. In this case, the victim was a conservative influencer. Because of this, I’ve heard countless people blaming “The Democrats.”

I have family and friends who are Democrats who are just as devastated over this tragedy. It’s sad to me to see so many people target an entire political group over something that is a hate problem. This goes far beyond politics. It steps into the territory of morality that I don’t believe politics touches as much as we think. People often have differing views on politics even though they have similar values. This taps right into the heart of morals. It is not about sides anymore. It is about living in a world that makes it acceptable to condone death when it’s someone we disagree with. It is about walking among people who mock those who believe differently and laugh in the faces of those who have lost someone important to them. The United States is facing more than a political divide. We are tiptoeing toward a world that’s void of empathy, and that is the scariest part.



Photo courtesy of Gage Skidmore

Kirk was an American political commentator.

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Life on the pitch

Junior forward talks about her career



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Multimedia Editor
Katherine Welch (right) battles a defender.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

For junior Katherine Welch, playing soccer came as naturally to her as walking. Growing up in Ada, Michigan, Welch was one of nine kids in her family, six of whom were brothers who also played soccer, so Welch touched a soccer ball as soon as she learned how to walk. Welch discussed the influence her soccer-playing brothers had on her as a child. “I learned a lot from my older brothers growing up,” Welch said. “I wanted to do what they did, so I was touching a soccer ball as I was growing up. We all played soccer with each other growing up, and they’re a huge inspiration to me.” Welch’s recruiting story is different from most Big Rapids athletes. In her junior year of high school, Welch went to soccer camps where she met Ferris State soccer head coach Greg Hensen, who emailed her

about Ferris. Welch wasn’t interested in Ferris State until she received the email from Hensen. Welch went on only one college visit, and that was to Ferris State. She loved Hensen’s mentality, and loved that Ferris State wasn’t too big, nor too small. Having arrived at Ferris State and completed her junior year, Welch has loved being in Big Rapids. Studying Sports Communication, Welch loves that she doesn’t have huge lecture halls, which allows her to get to know her professors, who are very considerate of her schedule. On the soccer field, Welch loves her team and appreciates having 33 built-in friends who all understand each other and what they are going through. Senior defender Bella Val-lone highlighted the type of player Welch is on and off the field. “Katherine is a great leader on and off the field,” Val-lone said. “She’s a friend to everyone on the team and is someone everyone on the team, including myself,

can look up to for her kindness, but also her ability to be a strong and gritty leader on the field. As a player, Katherine is a non-stop hard worker. She turns half-chances into scoring opportunities by just outworking the other team. She’s one of the quickest players I’ve played with, and she uses it to her advantage. Along with being quick, she also has amazing technical skills and will dribble past the whole team if we allow it.” In the 2024 season, Welch tied the team with five goals and led the team with six assists, 16 points, and 47 shots with 18 shots on goal, which was second on the team. Welch also scored two game-winners last season, the most on the team. While in her career at Ferris, Welch has been awarded First Team All-GLIAC twice and was named the GLIAC Freshman of the Year in 2023. Senior forward Haley Buckman added to the type of person Welch is. “Katherine is the type of player every team hopes to

have,” Buckman said. On the field, she’s incredibly competitive and sets the standard with her work rate, focus, and consistency. She’s composed under pressure and always finds a way to elevate the players around her, whether that’s through her communication, smart decision-making, or simply leading by example. Off the field, Katherine is just as impactful. She’s approachable, supportive, and makes everyone feel valued, no matter their role on the team. As a leader, she’s someone we all trust.” Going into her junior year, Welch talked about what she wants to get out of her third collegiate year. “I want to get the whole team to the tournament and win the championship,” Welch said. “I haven’t experienced it, so get everyone, including me, to win it. We need to showcase each other’s ability to win.” Welch and the Bulldogs start GLIAC play on Friday, Sept. 19, at home against rival Davenport University.

Redstorm rolls into town

Bulldogs look ahead to their homecoming game against Rio Grande

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs (3-0, 0-0 in GLIAC) take on the Redstorm (0-2, 0-0 in MSC) in what will be Rio Grande’s third game of their first season in the 21st century. Ferris took down the Tiffin Dragons after a hard-fought offensive shootout on Saturday, Sept. 14, at home by a score of 41-34. The Bulldogs were led once again by red-shirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower, who went 15-23 passing, with 232 yards and two touchdowns, while adding 146 yards on the ground and three touchdowns. On defense, the Bulldogs did struggle against the pass, allowing Dragon’s quarterback Alex Johnson to throw for 340 yards and three touchdowns, while throwing an interception. The defense still stood tall and stifled Tiffin, and they were led by senior defensive

lineman Tyrone Fowler, who had nine total tackles, two tackles for loss, one and a half sacks, and two quarterback hits on the day. Fowler spoke about his and his team’s performance against Tiffin. “First and foremost, I just want to say I am proud of how the defense played,” Fowler said. “Just to pull out a strong win, Tiffin was gashing us for a little bit, but for the most part, my teammates and I played strong, and we did not fold. I am just very proud and excited for what the future has in store for us.” The Rio Grande Redstorm might not be where you think they would be from; they hail from southeastern Ohio and not from the southwestern United States. The Redstorm is a part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and is a separate entity from the NCAA. The 2025 season is Rio Grande’s first season since resuming the program, as

in 1949, the college ended football due to financial restrictions, and in 1950, the football equipment was sold, and the money was used to purchase new basketball uniforms. Even though the Redstorm is returning to college football, this game is no different from any other game, and senior slot receiver Brady Rose knows that. “We have to go in and compete just like every game,” Rose said. “We have to sharpen our game and fix our mistakes from last week. This week is no different from any other week; we just have to focus on our game and play to the best of our abilities.” In the two games thus far in the Redstorms season, they have only scored six points and totaled 180 yards of total offense between those two games. Rio Grande has a total of three interceptions on the defensive side of the ball this season, two of those coming



Photo by: Delaney Stewart | Photographer
Zak Ahern stiff arming his way to a 8.9 yards per carry.

from freshman defensive back Andy Meldick. On the offensive side of the ball, the Redstorm is led by freshman quarterback Ayden Ludolph, who on the season is 8-29 (29.6% completion) with 107 yards, zero touchdowns to two interceptions. Junior slot receiver Taariik

Brett believes this offense is firing on all cylinders and will only get better as the season goes on. “The offense is playing really well,” Brett said. “Us as an offense right now are getting very comfortable and confident in our system. We are growing and getting better by the week. Wyatt Bow-

er is growing, getting better, and getting more comfortable each and every week, and as we all can see, Wyatt is a baller.” The Bulldogs face off against the Rio Grande Redstorm on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 3 p.m. at Top Taggart Field for Ferris’ homecoming game.

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& Residence Hall Association

Big Radio
Big Mack
Justin
Valentine
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Wild About Ferris

HOME COMING 2025
September 18
Williams Auditorium
7PM DOORS / Free to All
FSU Students Priority Entry
WITH CURRENT STUDENT ID



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HOMECOMING 2025

SEP 15	Homecoming Week Kickoff Stop by our kickoff event on the Robinson Quad, where you can pickup your pre-ordered Homecoming shirt or grab free Bulldog Swag! In the evening, join us for Field Day - Competitive Simon Says, Relays, Tug of War, and more!
SEP 16	Escape Rooms and Trivia Night 15-minute Escape Rooms you can do alone or with friends all day in the David L Eisler Center! Join us later that night for team trivia and compete for bragging rights and prizes!
SEP 17	Movie on the Quad/Banner Making Relax with a movie and crafts on the Robinson Quad! Parade Entries can pick up supplies and start working on their banners for the parade!
SEP 18	“Wild About Ferris” Variety Show From Wild 'N Out freestyles to laugh-out-loud moments, Justina Valentine, Conceited, and Radio Big Mack are bringing the energy, the jokes and the unforgettable vibes to FSU!
SEP 19	Pep Rally Bonfire Music and Dancing, Food Trucks, Yard Games, and Bonfire near the South Athletic Fields
SEP 20	Parade 10:30am start on Michigan Ave Sign up to walk in the parade TODAY! RSOs, Campus Departments, Club and Varsity Sport Teams all showcase their members and celebrate Ferris and the Big Rapids community

FOR MORE DETAILS,
CHECK OUT THE “EVENTS” TAB
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